

individuals like Ralph Lazo, giving a voice to those who were wronged in the past. Let us all remember, that the fight for justice for Japanese internees is one that is being fought by the entire community regardless of their ethnicity. We must all "Stand Up for Justice."

Mr. Speaker, let us renew our resolve to build a better future for our community as we dedicate ourselves to remembering how we compromised liberty in the past. Doing so will help us to guard it more closely in the future. As we commemorate the Day of Remembrance, we must pass H. Res. 56, in support of Japanese-American, German-American, and Italian American communities in their recognizing of this historical day. I also look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Wartime Parity and Justice Act of 2003.

TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF RED RIVER VALLEY

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scout Council of Red River Valley.

With more than 3.8 million members, the Girl Scouts have served as one of the finest organizations dedicated solely to girls. For over 90 years, the Girl Scouts have instilled leadership skills and strong values, while helping girls realize their true potential and self worth.

The Girl Scout Council of Red River Valley comprises 13 counties in northeast Texas and southeast Oklahoma. These include Bryan, Choctaw, McCurtain, and Pushmataha Counties in Oklahoma and Camp, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties in Texas.

Over 2,500 girls are able to participate in year-round activities offered by the Red River Valley Council. These activities foster skills in business, communication, the environment, the humanities, science, sports, and personal health. Programs offered during the school year include the Engineering for Girls Club which gives 4th through 8th graders the opportunity to participate in activities relating to science, math, technology, and engineering. During the summer, girls can learn traditional outdoor skills at Camp Gambill, a 54-acre facility located in Sumner, TX.

Mr. Speaker, as the Girl Scout Council of Red River Valley continues to grow and expand, I want to commend the council for its tireless work expanding opportunities for our girls in east Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MS. IRIS FERNANDEZ

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month of March, which has been designated Women's History Month, to pay tribute to Ms. Iris Fernandez, a phenomenal woman who has devoted her life to enhancing the lives of others.

Iris, a native of Puerto Rico moved to New York at the age of 18. While attending college in New York she began serving her community as a youth advocate by helping children with their schoolwork. Later, as a parent, Iris continued advocating for children's education as a school board member. She chaired the District 7 School Boards Facilities where she brought together the Parks Department, the Department of Education Facilities and CPB No. 1 to build speed bumps around the school where speeding cars were a concern. In addition she orchestrated the building of a fence around P.S. 49 which potentially saved the lives of many children as it once prevented a man with a gun from entering the school premises.

Mr. Speaker, Iris has a long history of service to her community. She is the President and Founder of the Community Enhancement Organization which serves to create new initiatives to help families move from welfare to work and serves to help community residents find decent apartments or become home owners. If that is not enough, she also created the Youth Advisory Council to address the issues that the youth in her organization face on a daily basis. Ms. Fernandez has also demonstrated that she is a capable business woman. In 1989 she became a financial officer for a home care agency named P.R.H.A.S., Inc. During her fourteen years of service she was instrumental in moving their revenue from \$7 million to an impressive \$14 million. The works of this young woman has not gone unnoticed. In 2002, her community elected her to serve as Assembly Female District Leader for the 84th district.

Mr. Speaker, for her willingness to go beyond the call of duty in service to her community, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

HONORING HERBERT KURZ ON HIS 84TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many family and friends who have gathered to extend my very best wishes to a man whose lifetime of accomplishments are a true reflection of what a business and community leader should be—Herbert Kurz—as he celebrates his 84th birthday.

He has dedicated both his professional and personal life to the betterment of his community and to the promotion of equality for all Americans. Herb once told me his faith was in human beings and he has spent a lifetime honoring that faith. His success, both as a businessman and activist, has been based on this mantra and through his good work he has made a real difference in the lives of many.

Chairman and CEO of Presidential Life Insurance Company of Nyack, New York, Herb has combined a shrewd business sense and responsible business conscience to make his business successful and achieve national renown. Honored at the White House Conference on Corporate Citizenship in 1996, Presidential Life has long been known for its commitment to hiring both women and minori-

ties. When he started his business forty years ago, Herb made it a practice to give the first chance at a position to a qualified minority person. In a time when women and minorities had difficulty in securing a place in the business world, Herb opened the doors of opportunity to hundreds—a practice which he continues today.

In addition to his role in building a business that is open-minded in its employment and conservative in its protection of its shareholders investments, Herb's true passion has been as a community leader and social activist.

It is a passion that began in his teenage years when he helped organize a union of hotel and restaurant workers in the Catskills and was re-invigorated upon his return from his service in the United States Air Force during World War II when a very personal experience changed his life.

Herb's uncle, Frederic Ewen, was a popular professor of English at Brooklyn College. Professor Ewen's commitment to the freedom of thought, as well as his political activism during the 1930s, led to his becoming a victim of the academic witch-hunts of the McCarthy Era. When he refused to cooperate with the House UnAmerican Activities Committee in 1952, Professor Ewen was forced to resign his position and was subsequently blacklisted. It was his uncle's tragic experience that led Herb to become one of our nation's leading philanthropists in support of civil liberties. In fact, just four years ago, he established the Frederic Ewen Academic Freedom Collection at New York University. The collection, the first of its kind in the United States, focuses on the rights of teachers and research workers to investigate their subjects of expertise without fear of reprimand or dismissal and the right to provide students and the entire academic community with knowledge and information pertaining to any controversial social, economic, or political issue without interference or penalty.

Herb has spent over half his life making a difference in the lives of others. Whether supporting the arts, speaking out against bigotry, enhancing a community hospital for the entire community, or channeling his anger at government corruption into electoral action, Herb's compassion and leadership have left an indelible mark on his community and our nation. For his endless contributions and uncompromising spirit, I am proud to stand today to join his wife, Edythe; his children, Leonard and Ellen; his grandchildren Tommy and Sophie, family and friends to pay tribute to my dear friend, Herbert Kurz. Happy 84th birthday!

HONORING THOMAS PFINGSTEN

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2004

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Pfingsten, Library Director at Portland State University.

Mr. Pfingsten is retiring after 24 years of dedicated service to Portland State University and to Oregon. I join with his colleagues at PSU, those in the Oregon University System, and his friends in the City of Portland in recognizing him for his leadership, his commitment